

TEACHING EXCELLENCE AND ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM (TEA)

Eligible applicants must:

- Be secondary-level, full-time teachers with five or more years of classroom experience in either English as a Foreign Language, Social Sciences (social studies, civics, history, or geography) or Math and Sciences
- Be citizens of and residents in Bulgaria;
- Have proficiency in written and spoken English (at the second stage of the selection process successful applicants who do not have a valid TOEFL score will be asked to take the iBT TOEFL; the Embassy will cover the cost of the test);
- Continue teaching for at least five years after completion of the program; and
- Have submitted a complete application.
- Former participants of ILEP, TEA, Partners in Education (PiE) or the Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program are ineligible to apply.

The Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (TEA) is a program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State, and implemented by IREX, a Washington, DC-based nonprofit organization. TEA will provide 154 secondary school teachers from Europe and Eurasia, East Asia and the Pacific, the Near East, South and Central Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Western Hemisphere with unique opportunities to develop expertise in their subject areas, enhance their teaching skills, and increase their knowledge about the United States. The international participants will travel to the United States in two cohorts of 75-78 teachers each in spring or fall 2012. Their program will include customized seminars and intensive training in teaching methodologies, lesson planning, and teaching strategies for the participants' home environment, as well as the use of computers for Internet, word processing, and as teaching tools. The 6-week program will also include a 2-week internship at a secondary school to actively engage participants with American teachers and students. Trips to U.S. cultural sites and academic support will be provided for participants throughout the program.

In spring and summer 2013 a cohort of approximately 80 U.S. teachers will reciprocate the visits of the international teachers. Each U.S. teacher will be hosted by a TEA alumni school in the participating country where they will team-teach, discuss best teaching practices, curriculum, and educational issues in the host country. The trip will include visits to local schools and parent committees, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and local government offices.

Also, TEA alumni will have the opportunity to apply for follow-on grants to purchase essential materials for their schools, to offer follow-on training for other teachers, and to conduct other activities that will build on their exchange experience.

The TEA fellowship is fully funded and provides:

- J-1 visa support
- A pre-departure orientation held in participant's home country
- Round-trip airfare to and within the U.S.
- A Welcome Orientation in Washington, D.C.
- Academic program fees
- Housing (generally shared with other program fellows) and meals
- Accident and sickness coverage
- Transportation to the internship school (if necessary)
- A book/professional development allowance
- A Closing Seminar
- The opportunity to host a U.S. teacher for two weeks
- The opportunity to apply for follow-on grants.

Application Deadline: January 31, 2011

Applications for the Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program are available online at: <http://bulgaria.usembassy.gov/>
Completed applications (including Reference & Institutional Support Forms) can be mailed in hard copy to the address below. If submitting your application package by email, you will be asked to bring a signed hard copy of the documents at the interview.

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